

Assemblyman  
**PAUL KORETZ**

**Forty-second Assembly District**

*proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks*



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## **Koretz Bill Prohibiting Smoking on State Beaches Advances**

*AB 1583 Amended Slightly to Address Concerns of Committee Members*

**(Sacramento)** – Smokers will no longer be able to light up on state coastal beaches under a recently approved bill Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood). The bill, AB 1583, passed the Senate Natural Resources Committee today with a 6-3 vote.

After extensive discussion over the last week, the bill was moderated to clarify that the smoking prohibition would only apply to sand areas and would not include adjacent parking lots and campgrounds. Smoking on a state coastal beach would be an infraction punishable by a \$100 fine.

“Unfortunately, too many careless smokers use our beautiful beaches as their ashtray,” said Assemblyman Koretz. “Families visiting the beach shouldn’t have to share the sand with millions of nasty cigarette butts, nor should they have to breathe in the dangerous second-hand smoke.”

This legislation will reduce the harmful presence of cigarette butts as marine debris in the ocean. The toxic chemicals that are released from discarded cigarette butts present a significant bio-hazard, particularly in the food chain when consumed by fish.

Several cities, including Santa Monica, Malibu and Los Angeles, have recently passed ordinances to restrict smoking on the beaches in their jurisdictions. Los Angeles County recently approved a temporary pilot project to prohibit smoking on two beaches in its jurisdiction.

“This legislation ensures that eventually it will be as socially unacceptable to smoke on a beach as it now is in a restaurant. I look forward to that day.

“My goal with this bill is to create a cleaner, safer environment for everyone who visits California’s world famous beaches,” Koretz concluded.

AB 1583 now advances to the Senate Appropriations Committee and will likely be heard there in early August.

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